

REMARKS

Prior to May 1, 2000, the invention as described and claimed in the above-identified application was actually reduced to practice in the United States of America and satisfactorily tested in the United States of America for functioning in accord with its intended purpose, as evidenced by the enclosed affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131.

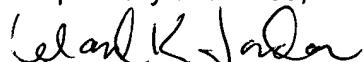
Claim Rejections –35 USC §103

Claims 41-46, 48-49 and 51 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soenksen (US 6,711,283). In view of the reduction to practice of claims 41-46, 48-49 and 51 in the United States of America and satisfactory testing in the United States of America for functioning in accord with their intended purpose prior to the filing date of the Soenksen patent, this patent is removed as reference against claims 41-46, 48-49. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 41-46, 48-49 be withdrawn.

Claim 47 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soenksen (US 6,711,283) in view of Linehop (US 5,944,532). Claim 47 further limits claim 41. In view of the reduction to practice of claim 41 in the United States of America and satisfactory testing in the United States of America for functioning in accord with its intended purpose prior to the filing date of the Soenksen patent, this patent is removed as reference against claim 47. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 47 be withdrawn.

Claim 50 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soenksen (US 6,711,283) in view of White et al. (US 4,736,826). Claim 50 further limits claim 41. In view of the reduction to practice of claim 1 in the United States of America and satisfactory testing in the United States of America for functioning in accord with their intended purpose prior to the filing date of the Soenksen patent, this patent is removed as reference against claim 50. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 50 be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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